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The
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Has received an application for a patent for a new and useful invention. The title and description of the invention are enclosed. The requirements of law have been complied with, and it has been determined that a patent on the invention shall be granted under the law.

Therefore, this

United States Patent

Grants to the person(s) having title to this patent the right to exclude others from making, using, offering for sale, or selling the invention throughout the United States of America or importing the invention into the United States of America for the term set forth below, subject to the payment of maintenance fees as provided by law.

If this application was filed prior to June 8, 1995, the term of this patent is the longer of seventeen years from the date of grant of this patent or twenty years from the earliest effective U.S. filing date of the application, subject to any statutory extension.

If this application was filed on or after June 8, 1995, the term of this patent is twenty years from the U.S. filing date, subject to any statutory extension. If the application contains a specific reference to an earlier filed application or applications under 35 U.S.C. 120, 121 or 365(c), the term of the patent is twenty years from the date on which the earliest application was filed, subject to any statutory extension.

J. Todd Pichini

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Thomas E. Dawkins

Attest

United States Patent [19]

Fish et al.

[11] Patent Number: **6,033,451**[45] Date of Patent: **Mar. 7, 2000**[54] **VACUUM CLEANER BAG DOCKING ASSEMBLY**[75] Inventors: William G. Fish, Gulfport, Miss.;
Charles F. Malone, New Bern, N.C.[73] Assignee: Oreck Holdings, LLC, Cheyenne,
Wyo.

[21] Appl. No.: 09/107,710

[22] Filed: Jun. 30, 1998

[51] Int. Cl.⁷ A47L 5/28[52] U.S. Cl. 55/374; 55/376; 55/377;
55/378; 55/DIG. 2; 15/350; 15/351[58] Field of Search 55/374, 376, 377,
55/378, 382, DIG. 2; 15/350, 351[56] **References Cited****U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

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[57] **ABSTRACT**

For use with vacuum cleaner bags of the type having a substantially rigid collar surrounding the bag opening, and with vacuum cleaners of the type having a dirty air outlet nozzle, a vacuum bag docking assembly is shown and described. The assembly incorporates an anchor member having a central opening for closely receiving the dirty air outlet nozzle. The assembly also incorporates a mounting member which engages the collar on the vacuum bag to secure the bag to the bag mounting member. The bag mounting member is pivotally connected to the anchor member, and moves between a loading position in which the bag can be inserted or removed from the mounting member, and a working position in which the bag opening engages the dirty air outlet nozzle.

14 Claims, 6 Drawing Sheets